# Heman Yale (1781–1825)

## Origin and Family

Born Apr 15, 1781. Died Sept 18, 1825, age 44 years.

**Father:** Elisha Yale Jr. (1763–1840)
**Mother:** Rhoda Culver (1763– )
**Spouse:** Rhoda Lowrey

**Children:**[1]

1. Horace Yale (1807– )
2. Gad Lowry Yale (1810–1882)
3. Sally Yale (1812– )
4. Sherman Yale (1814– )
5. Samantha Yale (1815– )
6. Caroline Yale (1818– )
7. Nancy Yale (1824– )

From Rodney Horace Yale[1]: "Heman Yale, of South Canaan, Conn., married Rhoda Lowry. He was a farmer. He enlisted in the War of 1812, August 31, 1814, under the command of Elijah Boardman, 26th Infantry. Discharged June 16, 1815; Time expired. Authority: Connecticut men in the Revolutionary War and War of 1812[2]. Heman Yale died September 18, 1825, aged 44 years. His widow married a Mr. Hunt, and lived at De Ruyter, New York."[1]

## Occupation

He was a farmer in So. Canaan, Litchfield, Conn. In the Federal census of 1810, when Heman was 29 years of age, the household included two free white males under 10 and a free white female (spouse) age 16-25. In the 1820 census, the record shows one free white male under 10, two free white females under 10. Heman and Rhoda are both shown in the 26-45 age category. His occupation is listed as "Agriculture".[3]

The 1820 census should have included two males in the 10-16 age group – Horace and Gad Lowry, but for some reason they were omitted. The count should also have included three females under 10, as they also lived to adulthood and were married.

## Military Service

The details of his enlistment record show that he was assigned to the 26th Infantry on Sept. 30, 1814 under the command of Elijah Boardman and he "drew clothes". He is described in the enlistment record as follows:[5]

- ID 228
- Rank – Private
- Regiment – 26th Infantry
- Height – 5 ft 7 and ¼ inch
- Eyes – Blue
- Hair – Brown
- Complexion – Dark

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- Age – 31
- Occupation – Cooper
- Town – Canaan, Litchfield, Conn.
- When – Aug 31, 1814
- Period – Duration of the War [of 1812]

While the 1820 census shows that Heman was a farmer, his military enlistment record indicates that his occupation was “Cooper” (barrel-maker). It was common for Connecticut farmers to maintain a secondary trade to generate income during the winter months, so it is plausible that Heman had both occupations at the time. It is also possible that the recruiter set his occupation to Cooper as his wartime service assignment. In the War of 1812, water-tight barrels were essential to carry gunpowder as well as provisions.

His tour of duty was only nine months. He probably performed his service on or near his farm, as he and his wife had another child just five months after his discharge. He did not draw a pension as a result of his service.

In 1798, Eli Whitney, the famous inventor of the cotton gin, established an arms production facility near New Haven, about 90 miles from Heman’s home. Here, using mostly water power from the Mill River, they manufactured guns and ammunition. By 1812, they were producing 15,000 muskets a year by employing modern assembly-line production methods. Today this site is a museum. Perhaps Heman Yale served here during the war, making gun powder barrels.

*The Mill River arms production plant near New Haven, Connecticut.*

However, according to Rodney Horace Yale, it is possible that Heman did see action during the war. In 1934 Rodney wrote “Heman was a soldier in the War of 1812, and while the records that were available to me did not disclose it, I remember hearing my father say that Heman was wounded in the leg in that war.”[4] If true, Heman may have seen action in the famous Battle of New Orleans during late December and early January of 1815. This battle produced a great victory for America, and greatly elevated the status of Andrew Jackson.

## End of Life

He passed away September 18, 1825, age 44.[6] No information as to the cause of death or his will has been found.

His wife Rhoda Lowry remarried and relocated to New York, along with several of her children. However, son Gad Lowry Yale, age 15 at the time, appears to have remained behind, or perhaps returned later in life, as he married in Litchfield County in 1836.

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## Research Notes

**Online Genealogy References**:
WikiTree ID: Yale-731
FamilySearch ID: KG33-5MM
Find a Grave Memorial: 55811492

**Further Reading**:

- Yale, Max Brian. *Guide to the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection*. *Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection.* 2025

- Yale, Max Brian. *Yale Family Coat of Arms* - Origin and History. *Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection*, 2025

## References


1. Yale, Rodney Horace. *Yale Genealogy and History of Wales*. Beatrice, NE: Milburn & Scott, 1908. Ref no 467 p. 218

2. Connecticut Adjutant-General's Office: Record of service of Connecticut men in the I. War of the Revolution, II. War of 1812, III. Mexican War

3. FamilySearch. “1820 United States Census,” entry for Heman Yale, Canaan, Connecticut.

4. Rodney Horace Yale. *Autobiographical Notes*, 1934 (Private Collection)

5. United States Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914 Draft, Enlistment and Service

6. Find a Grave Memorial 55811492


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